

SESQUICENTENNIAL

Utahns get a jump on pioneer bash

After all, where would 1896 statehood be without 1847 valley settlement?

By Lucinda Dillon

Deseret News staff writer

Utahns who think they can put away their history books after the 100-year anniversary of Utah statehood in January 1996, should think again.

From beyond the din of Utah Centennial event hoopla, the Utah Pioneer Sesquicentennial committee on Saturday kicked off the 150-year anniversary celebration of settlement in the state.

Sesqui-what?

Sesquicentennial, explains Rhonda Greenwood, is 1.5 times a 100-year celebration — so a centennial is 100 years, a sesquicentennial is 150. In 1847, pioneers first came to the valley in oxen-powered wagons, so simple mathematics indicates the actual anniversary will be in 1997.

Greenwood is the only paid staffer for the state-sponsored group coordinating the celebration and knows it may be confusing for residents feeling bombarded with information about historical milestones. She says the sesquicentennial commission will lay low until after final Utah centennial events are over.

PAUL BARKER, DESERET NEWS



A "pioneer" family introduces "Spirit of Pioneering" logo that will adorn memorabilia in coming months.

"We really want the centennial effort to be a success because it's all a celebration of history," she says, noting that one event is no more important than the other.

"After all, without settlement, there wouldn't be any statehood," she said.

Flanked by a pioneering family, two oxen and a rustic vehicle in which the settlers traveled, Saturday's event introduced the "Spirit of Pioneering" logo that will adorn sesquicentennial memorabilia in coming months. The logo, which shows a pioneer family traveling with an American Indian, was in-

spired by 280 Utah students who participated in a logo contest earlier this year, Greenwood said.

Eight students were named winners in the contest. In the high school division, Chris Maag of Clearfield High School took first place and Heber Sullivan of Tintic High School in Eureka took second.

Erin Minckley of Hillside Junior High in Salt Lake City won first place in the junior high division, while Jessica Gale of Midvale Middle School took second and Jessica Richter of Indian Hills Middle School in Sandy took third.

Nick Forgacks of Ogden's Green Acres Elementary was first in the elementary school division, followed by Melissa Powell of Neola Elementary in Duchesne County and Amy Stevenson of Burton Elementary in Kaysville.

More than \$75,000 in grant money will be available to non-profit groups who want to mark historic trails or honor the date with activities, said Max J. Evans, director of the Division of State History.

Grant applications are available through the Sesquicentennial Commission office at 533-3597.

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WEST PLAN

Coalition sends demands to D.C.

They say environmental laws could turn some rural areas into ghost towns.

By Lee Davidson

Deseret News Washington correspondent

WASHINGTON — A band of grumbling Western legislators led by Utahns called Monday for the federal government to ease environmental laws and give states more power over their lands to prevent creating "rural ghettos."

Otherwise, they worry that enforcement of current environmental laws will destroy mining, timber harvesting and ranching — and will turn many rural areas into ghost towns.

The Western States Coalition — a multistate group of local and state elected leaders founded by Utah Rep. Met Johnson, R-New Harmony, and former Utah House Speaker Rob Bishop, R-Brigham City — unveiled a 12-point plan to bring such changes.

Current Utah House Speaker

Melvin R. Brown told a Capitol Hill press conference that without the plan, federal action is "creating rural ghettos and is creating environmental problems" to boot.

A key proposal is to rewrite the Endangered Species Act so that it must balance the needs of such species with the economic needs of people.

For example, the group said the total economic impact of setting aside Utah areas to protect the desert tortoise could be up to \$16.5 billion a year — which it said is

huge compared to the \$1,300 a year it says is spent to educate each child in the state.

Other proposals included:

- Turn U.S. Bureau of Land Management areas over to states, which the group says could better oversee them.
- Preserve existing rights-of-way across federal land, which Clinton administration proposals could close. "Access to lands is access to opportunity," said Alaska House Speaker Gail Phillips.

TEMPLE SQUARE

Peace runners pass torch and light of hope

